

POLICY

It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Human Services Bureau of Juvenile Justice (BJJ) that a nurse or physician evaluate and monitor any youth refusing food for forty-eight (48) hours or longer.

PURPOSE

This policy ensures that a youth's refusal to eat does not adversely affect the long term health of the youth.

DEFINITIONS

See JRG, JJ Residential Glossary.

**RESPONSIBLE
STAFF**

Designated in the facility standard operating procedure.

PROCEDURE

Each facility is required to develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) relative to youth refusing food. At a minimum, these SOPs must contain the following requirements:

Notification

When a youth refuses food for a period of forty-eight (48) hours, notify the following persons:

- A licensed nurse or physician.
- The youth's parent/legal guardian.

**Medical
Response**

The youth is offered a daily medical assessment of his/her physical condition.

The youth's refusal of a medical assessment is witnessed and documented.

A nurse, physician, or designee monitors and documents the youth's vital signs on a daily basis.

Hospitalization

If the youth's vital signs are abnormal or other medical problems develop, the youth is transported to a hospital for treatment.

If the youth is hospitalized, the facility/center director or designee notifies:

- The youth's parent/legal guardian.
- The youth's assigned JJS, CMO worker or probation officer.
- The director of the BJJ residential facilities division.

AUTHORITY

Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.115a(1)(l)